



Mrs. Platter's News Letter

October 21, 2011



Reading News

To review what we learned this past week, ask your child questions about the following. What letters did you learn this week? (**B**). What keys did you learn to read? (**im, ip, ib & ick**). The sight words that we learned are the following: **don't, who, this, be, buy, that & very**. When your child is reading along with you at night encourage them to identify these words throughout the stories. When you are practicing the keys at home it is important to stress the vowel sounds. When students are able to recognize the keys it will make reading easier and more enjoyable. It also helps them with their spelling when writing in their journals.



Remember that there are important questions you should ask your child each day. These include: What was the key today? How do you spell it? What is a word that has the key in it? Did you have any new circle words? What were they?

As for next week, here is what we will be doing:

Monday--- S/S--- sh, keys--- ish, circle words---she, put & where

Tuesday--- S/S--- Review, keys in, circle words---day & every

Wednesday--- S/S---Review, keys---ash, circle words---her & said

Thursday--- S/S---Review, keys---ig, circle words---will, with & was, **Key Story:** The Pig

Friday--- S/S---test, keys---Quiz, circle words---Review

Math News

This week we explored subtraction (Math SOL 1.8). The students picked up this concept with no problem. Students learned that subtraction means "taking away". The children drew pictures to go with a story then crossed out to subtract. For example, Karen has 8 balloons and 3 popped. How many does she have left? The children drew 8 balloons and then crossed out 3 balloons. They saw that only 5 remained. This concept can be reinforced at home with many things in your home. For example: Put 7 cookies on the table and then take away 4. How many are left? This can be a fun activity with your child while reinforcing concepts taught in class. We also played a game with cubes, a schoolhouse, and a bus. The students paired up and told different stories. They used the schoolhouse to show a certain amount of students, and the bus for taking away some students. They then had to figure out how many were left at school. The children really enjoyed this activity. We continued with subtraction by using a variety of problem solving strategies. We spent some time learning how to subtract in vertical form. At the end of the week we reviewed addition and subtraction. Please review with your child the math that we do during class. It helps if students review it one on one at home. You can review concepts in the car, grocery store, at home, etc.

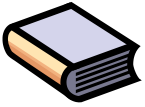
Next week will be a fun week in Math. We will do some different Halloween activities that will help us review some of the concepts we have learned so far this year. We will do patterns (SOL 1.21), addition/subtraction (SOL 1.8, 1.9), graphing (SOL 1.18, 1.19, 1.20), and problem solving and measurement (SOL 1.8, 1.9 & 1.21). As you can see, it may sound like fun, but we will be doing a lot of important work. Please practice addition and subtraction facts at home. The best way to master math facts is to practice, practice, and practice. Make it into a fun game---who can get more right, first grader or daddy? Again, if there is anything I can do to help, just let me know.



Please practice addition and subtraction facts at home. The best way to master these facts is to practice, practice, and practice! This can't be done only at school. You can practice math facts anywhere. My suggestion to you would be to make flashcards. This can be a quick check to see how your child is doing with the facts. It is also a quick and easy way to learn our math facts. This is something that an older brother or sister could work on with your first grader. Another idea for practice would be to divide a piece of paper in half. Put 5 cheerios, m&m's, etc. on the left side and 3 on the right side ($5+3=8$). Have your child write an addition sentence for what is on the paper. You can do similar math for subtraction practice. Put 5 cheerios on a piece of paper and have your child eat 3. Then have them write a subtraction sentence ($5-3=2$). We want our first graders to feel very confident with their math facts. The children seem to have more difficulty with subtraction. Taking away just seems harder than adding on. This is another reason for you to practice these facts at home.

Just a heads up, later in the year the children will be doing timed math facts. They will have 4 minutes to complete 60 problems. There are three different tests to get through. It wouldn't hurt to begin working hard on the facts now.

Please review papers that come home with your child each day.

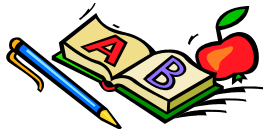


Theme Time News

This week we started learning about maps and how to make them (SOL 1.5). Ask your child, "What is a bird's eye view?" We worked on several mapping activities. We identified objects using directional terms. As we identified objects on a map we used the vocabulary north, south, east, and west. Students also identified the location of different objects in our classroom. Students designed a layout of their "own" classroom. It was interesting to see where they put objects in their classrooms. They did a great job with this activity.

Next week during this time we will be doing some fun Halloween activities. We will be doing lots of seasonal writing.

Please work with your child on their writing. I encourage you to write with your child. I would love to see any of the writing that your child does at home. Students at this time are expected to write a sentence with a complete thought. Each sentence needs to start with a capital and end with the correct punctuation.



Important Dates in October

22nd PTO Fall Festival

28th Field Trip Money Due

31st Halloween

Conferences

Conferences are on Tuesday, Nov. 7th. Please sign up on the sheet and return as soon as possible. Conferences are scheduled every 15 minutes. It is a tight schedule. Please try to be on time.

Have a wonderful weekend!